

Whereas further research on mentoring provides strong evidence that mentoring successfully reduces substance use and abuse, academic failure, and delinquency;

Whereas mentoring, in addition to preparing young people for school, work, and life, is extremely rewarding for those serving as mentors;

Whereas more than 4,700 mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States focus on building strong, effective relationships between mentors and mentees;

Whereas approximately 3,000,000 young people in the United States are in solid mentoring relationships due to the remarkable vigor, creativity, and resourcefulness of the thousands of mentoring programs in communities throughout the Nation;

Whereas in spite of the progress made to increase mentoring, the United States has a serious "mentoring gap", with nearly 15,000,000 young people in need of mentors;

Whereas mentoring partnerships between the public and private sectors bring State and local leaders together to support mentoring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and making the most of limited resources to benefit young people in the United States;

Whereas the designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month" will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential;

Whereas a month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring across the United States; and

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the mentoring gap in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month";

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults and students who are already volunteering as mentors and encourages more adults and students to volunteer as mentors; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Mentoring Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the controlled time be extended for an additional 30 minutes under the control of the Republican side, and that all additional time, including that already utilized by Senator MENENDEZ, with postcloture time continue to run during this period.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2003

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 7 a.m., Tuesday, December 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed

expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3590, with postcloture time continuing to run during the overnight adjournment, and that the time until the expiration of postcloture time be equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the expiration of the time, the majority leader be recognized to move to table amendment No. 3278; that upon disposition of amendment No. 3278, amendment No. 3277 be withdrawn; that the Senate then proceed to vote on adoption of amendment No. 3276; that upon disposition of amendment No. 3276, the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2786; that if cloture is invoked, the majority leader then be recognized and that the time until 9:30 a.m. then be equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; further, that the Senate begin alternating one-hour blocks of time beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., with the Republicans controlling the first hour; that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate stand in recess until 2:30 p.m., and that upon reconvening, the Senate resume the alternating blocks until 5:30 p.m., with all postcloture time counting during any recess period and until 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn following the remarks of Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio and Senator DEMINT, if he chooses to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wanted to take some time to talk about the health care bill before the Senate which the majority leader is anxious to get passed before Christmas. I suspect that he knows if this bill sees too much light of day, he could lose 1 or 2 of his 60 votes, and that is why his managers' amendment was kept under wraps so that no one knew anything about it until the last minute.

On our side of the aisle, we would like to hold off until after Christmas to give all Members of the Senate and the American people a chance to review this legislation. Obviously, this is not going to happen. I think that is unfortunate.

When you compare the number of days we spent debating this bill to other major pieces of legislation that have come before this body in recent years, the Democrats' haste is obvious.

For example, in 2002, I was very much involved in the legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security. We spent 19 days over 7 weeks on the

floor debating that bill. We took 20 votes on amendments during the debate. The final result was bipartisan. Ninety Members of the Senate voted for it.

Tragically, for the American people, unlike other important health care-related bills such as the Medicare Modernization Act that garnered wide bipartisan support, this bill is nowhere near bipartisan and did not receive a single Republican vote for cloture at 1 this morning, and only one Republican in the House of Representatives supported it.

In my humble opinion, the way this bill was negotiated behind closed doors, and without the input of Members from both sides, will sour relations and bipartisan discussion on other major issues to come before the Senate, such as debt and deficit reduction—notably bipartisan legislation that I have been working on very closely with Senators GREGG and CONRAD, a comprehensive energy bill, reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, climate change legislation, and—very important—a jobs bill.

The problems facing our country are too serious for business as usual, each side one-upping the other for political advantage, with the 2010 elections casting shadows on what we should be doing for the benefit of our country, at a time when this Nation is as fragile as I have seen it in my entire life.

Our future and the future of our children and grandchildren is in our hands. Our constituents and the world are watching. Our credibility and credit are on the line, and so is our economic and national security, and, quite frankly, our leadership position in the world. We need fewer partisans in this body and more statesmen.

Last week I came to the floor to remind my colleagues and the American people about the fiscal realities that face our Nation and explained how this health reform legislation, which is now likely to pass based on this morning's cloture vote, would make an unsustainable fiscal situation even worse.

Let me remind you as we stand right now that our Nation's debt has exceeded \$12 trillion for the first time in our history. In fact, from 2008 to 2009 alone, the Federal debt increased 19 percent, boosting national debt as a percentage of GDP from 70 percent last year to 84 percent this year. We have not seen this kind of debt-to-GDP ratio since the end of the Second World War.

We have amassed a staggering \$70 trillion in unfunded obligations over the next 75 years or an estimated \$600,000 per American household.

Our Medicare Program is already on shaky footing with \$37 trillion in unfunded future Medicare costs, and the Medicare trust fund is expected to be insolvent by 2017. Frankly, this is why I am disappointed the Senate failed to support Senator GREGG's amendment we considered earlier in this debate to ensure that the savings achieved by